THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) All the water gasp of the Jowai-Agartala sector of NH-44 (Assam-Agartala road) have already been bridged. The phased replacement of the temporary and semi-permanent bridges is expected to be completed by 1994-95.

The present state of the road is satisfactory. However, due to the increase in traffic intensity, it has been proposed to develop the road from Jowai upto Karimaganj to double lane specifications.

(c) No, Sir.

Plan Programme to Accelerate Growth of Agriculture

†2277. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting between the Planning Commission and the Agricultural Scientists was held recently to prepare a plan to accelerate growth of agriculture during the Eighth Five Year Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have emerged from the discussions; and

(c) if so, to what extent these decisions would be incorporated in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Concrete suggestions with respect to input delivery system, agricultural exports, remunerative prices, development of plantation crops, development of minor irrigation, development of agro-industries to arrest rural exodus to the cities were made. It was also stressed that greater emphasis should be laid on bio-technology to overcome the situation when the petroleum based fertilisers become scarce and costly. With reference to rainfed/dryland agriculture, watershed development was stressed. The need for developing rural infrastructure like roads, markets, etc. were suggested. It was also suggested that there should be farmers' exchange programme so that the farmers of one State can go to other States and learn improved methods of cultivation. It was suggested that there should be closer linkage between the farmers and the research workers in knowing their problems. Suggestions were also made for the development of Hroticulture with better planting material made easily available. It was also suggested that export of non-traditional items like basmati rice should also be encouraged. All these suggestions would receive consideration in formulation of the Eighth Plan.

Rate of Central Investment in Andhra Pradesh

††2278. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of Central investment in Andhra Pradesh has been very low as compared to other States; and

(b) if so, what was the annual Central investment in Andhra Pradesh during the past decade and how does it compare with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

†Previously Unstarred Question 1222, transferred from the 17th August, 1990.

††Previously Unstarred Question 1268, transferred from the 20th August, 1990.

MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b) Central Plan investment is made for the country as a whole keeping national priorities in view. These Central programmes/projects in most cases transcend the limits of State boundaries. The fruits of these programmes/projects also get spread all over the country. As such these schemes are not drawn-up State-wise. Hence details of annual Central Investment in Andhra Pradesh during the past decade are not available. However, estimates of State-wise expenditure of the Central Plan for the Sixth Five Year Plan and the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan *viz.*, 1985-86 (Actuals), 1986-87 (RE) and 1987-88 (BE) have been worked out in consultation with the Ministries and are indicated in the Annexure.
[See Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 83]

Extension of Pensionary Benefits to Teachers of Aided Schools in Punjab

†2279. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has accepted the report of a High-Powered Committee recommending extension of pensionary and other benefits to the teachers of aided schools in Punjab;

(b) whether the Punjab Government has also taken a decision to implement the said report;

(c) if so, the date of implementation of the report; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (b) According to the information furnished by the State Government, the scheme was to be implemented with effect from 5-2-1987. The State Government was finalising the various procedural and accounting formalities involved in the implementation of the Recommendations of the High Powered Committee. The latest position from the State Government has been ascertained. Their reply is awaited.

Import of Heavy Water from West Germany

2280. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heavy Water has been imported from West Germany for nuclear power plants; and

(b) of so, when it was imported and the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pollution caused by Indian Charge Crome Limited

2281. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages affected by environmental pollution around Indian Charge Crome Limited at Chondwar in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the pollution there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI

†Previously Unstarred Question 1788 transferred from the 22nd August, 1990.